

WHAT I CLAIM IS:

1. A storage apparatus for boxes containing fruit, comprising:

a cabinet including side walls, a rear wall, front walls, and a cover portion, said cabinet having an interior volume of a size sufficient to house a stack of said boxes,

said front walls of said cabinet defining an access opening for insertion and withdrawal of one or more of said boxes,

each of said side walls of said cabinet comprising an outer wall, an inner wall separated from said outer wall by a space, and a plurality of vertically oriented partitions disposed between said inner and outer walls, said partitions being spaced from one another and being in intimate contact with said inner and outer side walls, so that said inner and outer side walls define, with said partitions, air flow channels, and

said cover portion being positioned atop the front, side and rear walls, said cover portion housing blowers disposed atop the air flow channels of each side wall and conduit means interconnecting said blowers and said channels for fluidly communicating said blowers with said air flow channels.
2. The storage apparatus of claim 1, wherein said cover portion further houses a condenser coil and air-conditioning apparatus.

3. The storage apparatus of claim 1, wherein said inner walls each include a plurality of apertures, each of said apertures being associated with a unique one of said air flow channels to allow the air in that channel to impact boxes of fruit located adjacent that aperture.
4. The storage apparatus of claim 3, wherein said apertures are arranged at horizontally staggered positions.
5. The storage apparatus of claim 1, wherein said cabinet includes a return for directing air emanating from the apertures in said inner wall of said cabinet to the cover portion.
6. The storage apparatus of claim 1, wherein said cover portion further includes at least one motor for driving said fans.
7. The storage apparatus of claim 6, wherein each fan is driven by a separate motor.
8. The storage apparatus of claim 6, wherein each pair of fans is driven by a separate motor.

9. The storage apparatus of claim 1, wherein said front walls include narrow edge wall portions disposed at an acute angle to said front walls, said narrow edge wall portions forming a guide to facilitate insertion and withdrawal of said stack of boxes.

10. The storage apparatus of claim 1, and further including a closure carried by the cabinet to block egress of air from the interior of said cabinet.

11. The storage apparatus of claim 10, wherein said closure comprises at least one sheet of plastic material.

12. The storage apparatus of claim 10, wherein said closure is attached to said cabinet between said front wall portions.